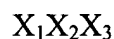


IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 3, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--According to this preferred embodiment, there is provided a recombinant or synthetic peptide or chemical equivalent thereof comprising the sequence:

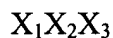


wherein

X_1 and X_3 may be the same or different and each is an amino acid sequence comprising from 0 to 15 naturally or non-naturally occurring amino acid residues; X_2 is selected from FFYTPKTRREAED (SEQ ID NO: 1) and FWYIPPSLRTLED (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a derivative or chemical equivalent thereof and wherein said peptide is capable of reacting with T cells and modifying T-cell function when incubated with cells from subjects with pre-clinical or clinical IDDM and determining reactivity by an appropriate assay. Preferred cells include but are not limited PBMCs, anti-coagulated whole blood or tissue biopsy cells and determining reactivity by an appropriate assay.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 10, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Preferably the present invention contemplates a method of assaying the reactivity of a subject to IDDM autoantigen said method comprising contacting a peptide or chemical equivalent thereof comprising the formula



wherein:

X_1 and X_3 may be the same or different and each is an amino acid sequence comprising from 0 to 15 naturally or non-naturally occurring amino acid residues; X_2 is selected from FFYTPKTRREAED (SEQ ID NO: 1) and FWYIPPSLRTLED (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a derivative or

chemical equivalent thereof and wherein said peptide is capable of reacting with T cells and modifying T-cell function when incubated with cells from subjects with pre-clinical or clinical IDDM and determining reactivity by an appropriate assay. Preferably cells include but are not limited to peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs), anticoagulated whole blood and tissue biopsy cells.--